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*Basic
not on file*

17 October 1977

Mr. Len Allen
Managing Director
Radio Television News
Directors Association
1735 DeSales Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Allen:

Admiral Turner has asked me to thank you for your letter of October 10th. We very much appreciate your sending along a copy of your Resolution directing the RTNDA Board to develop guidelines for journalistic relations with government agencies.

It will interest you to know that we are currently consolidating and clarifying our own policies concerning CIA relationships with the news media. We have several internal policies and regulations concerning such relationships, but feel in light of recent interest in the issue, it makes sense to consolidate them into a single policy statement to clarify the many misconceptions and misunderstandings which now exist. I will be happy to send you that consolidated statement just as soon as it is finished. It may help in putting your own guidelines together.

In the meantime, if I can help in any other way please let me know. Perhaps we could get together to discuss the subject sometime at your convenience.

Many thanks again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Herbert E. Hetu

Assistant for Public Affairs

OCT 11 3 30 PM '77 Director of Central Intelligence

bcc: A/DDCI

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *Public Affairs*)

TEXT OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 32nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
RADIO TELEVISION NEWS DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

September, 1977

We are citizens first, then journalists. As citizens we have some obligations to co-operate with government agencies. As journalists, our obligations are a good deal more sensitive, and difficult to define. But definition of those obligations is needed because of recent revelations involving journalists, journalism organizations and various governmental agencies, especially those in the investigation and intelligence fields. Guidelines are needed in advance of approaches by governmental agencies for our help. The basis on which such help should be granted, if at all, needs to be studied and debated. The RTNDA Board is directed to study this area and formulate guidelines for member consideration.

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An RTNDA policy statement in this field may be needed.

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